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Borough of Yeovil

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1959

EDWIN SNELL & SONS LIMITED. YEOVIL

B O R O U G H O F Y E O V I L

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Mayor:
COUNCILLOR DOROTHY VIOLET VINCENT.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN WILLIAM JOHN ENGLISH.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR S. PINDER - (Chairman)
COUNCILLOR J. KELLY - (Vice-Chairman).

The Mayor

Alderman H. Seymour. Councillor Mrs. H. Brown.
Councillor R. T. Hawkins. Councillor C. L. Parkin.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:
P. POWER FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer:
M. I. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon	QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)
Senior Public Health Inspector	C.G.H. RICE., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Food.
Public Health Inspectors	G.E. ROADHOUSE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.San.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods.
	F.W. WELSBY, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.
Student Public Health Inspector	A. A. D. Charles.

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TO THE

MAYOR, ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS

of the

YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of live births was 368, as compared with 326 for the previous year. The live birth rate was 15.3 as compared with England and Wales 16.4.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under the age of 12 months was 12, the Infant Mortality Rate, i.e. number of deaths per 1,000 live births, being 32.6. This figure is the highest since 1949, and at first glance compares badly with Somerset 18.7 and 22.6 for England and Wales. Analysis of the causes of death shows that 8 of the 12 deaths were due to congenital defects and that the prognosis or outlook for these infants was extremely unfavourable. The Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths during the first week per 1,000 live and still births) was 32, the County Rate being 31.5. Comparison of the Stillbirth Ra te, i.e. number of stillbirths per 1,000 live births and still births, shows the Yeovil figures to be 16, Somerset 20, and England and Wales 20.7 It would appear therefore that in Yeovil a greater percentage of congenitally handicapped infants survived the stress of being born, so reducing the stillbirth rate, but died subsequently in the first 12 months of life, and so increasing the Infantile Mortality Rate.

Death Rate

The Standardised Death Rate was 10.1 as compared with 11.2 for the previous year, and 11.6 for England and Wales.

There is a decrease in the number of deaths due to Cancer, 48 as compared with 51, the number of deaths due to Cancer of the Lung however, was 10 as compared with 5 for the previous year. Of these 10 deaths, 3 occurred in women (1 in the year 1958).

Infectious Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified was 175, as compared with 445 for the previous year.

One case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified, this being a young adult who had had three inoculations against Poliomyelitis.

It has not been claimed that the inoculations against Poliomyelitis are a complete protection against the disease, but that the inoculations are of value in minimising the incidence and severity of paralysis, which may be occasioned by the disease. In this particular case, the patient developed an extensive paralysis of the left lower limb, and I am of the opinion that if the inoculations had not been given, this patient would have had a severe permanent residual weakness of this leg, with considerable wasting of the muscles, and probably requiring some artificial support for standing and walking. The patient's convalescence was abnormally quick, and the resultant weakness and wasting of the leg was minimal.

The incidence of Whooping Cough, i.e. 2 cases, must be one of the lowest recorded in the Borough, and in my opinion is largely due to the immunisation of children against the disease. An article in the journal "Medical Officer" has compared the incidence of certain infectious diseases in the years 1938 and 1941, with the figures for the year 1958.

	England & Wales	1938	1958	Yeovil Borough	1938	1958
Diphtheria	No. of cases =	65,008	78	No. of cases =	49	nil
	No. of deaths =	2,861	8	No. of deaths =	1	nil
Scarlet Fever	No. of cases =	?	?	No. of cases =	16	nil
	No. of deaths =	311	4	No. of deaths =	nil	nil
		1941	1958		1941	1958
Whooping Cough	No. of cases approx. =	100,000	33,404	No. of cases =	114	2
	No. of deaths =	2,383	27	No. of deaths =	nil	nil

Immunisation

As in previous years, the number of infants and young children immunised has been satisfactory and considerably above the national average. The percentage of infants immunised against Diphtheria in 1959 as compared with children born in the previous year was 76.5, which figure is the highest ever recorded in the Borough to the best of my knowledge.

In my previous Annual Reports, I have stressed the importance of an improved Geriatric Service and of Fluoridation of the public water supply; these matters are still of importance, but as the members of the Council are fully cognizant of these matters, I do not feel there is any necessity to emphasize them in this report.

I again have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEOVIL BOROUGH

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1959

Area (in acres)	2,293
Rateable Value (31st March, 1960)	£429,143
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March,1960	£1,749
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1960)	8,012
Population	24,010

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,293 acres and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area.

The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation. The sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are: on the North, Mudford Road, 372 feet, on the West - Bunford Lane, 233 feet, and on the South - West Coker Road, 309 feet. The lowest point is on the East, beyond the Sewage Works, 96.7 feet.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is derived from various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows:- Spring Pond (two springs), Evershot Tunnel, upper Haydon Wood, Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. Preston borehole and Bunford are no longer in use as sources of water supply. All the water is chlorinated and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality.

An arrangement has been agreed to with the Yeovil Rural District Council to obtain an additional supply from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, which should ensure adequate supplies for the foreseeable future.

METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

RAINFALL

Summerleaze Park School. Total Rainfall - 27.78 inches

POPULATION

The population for 1959 is 24,010.

OCCUPATION

One of the main industries of Yeovil is in the manufacture of leather gloves, and includes all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

In addition to the gloving industry, there is a thriving aircraft industry and other light engineering industries, employing over 4,000

persons. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy products.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

(1) The Yeovil and District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
(2) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a Geriatric hospital.
(3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Five Crossways) - 14 beds.
(4) Balidon Maternity Hospital - a General Practitioners Unit - 17 beds.

The Yeovil Hospital consists of 88 beds, of which six are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,482 and the number of new out-patients 5,508.The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 19,698. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible authorities

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at the South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, only the Cubicle Block (10 beds) is required, and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on the Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to sanatoria at Quantock and Taunton.

CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further there is a constant shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A small laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. A Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents are also carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at the Summerlands Hospital. The ambulances and larger types of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24 hour service is maintained.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the resume showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses completed in the years to 31st December:-

1946	150 prefabs.
1947	61 houses.
1948	19 houses.
1949	95 houses.
1950	80 houses.
1951	132 houses and flats.
1952	120 houses and flats.
1953	138 houses and flats.
1954	178 houses, flats and bungalows.
1955	102 houses and flats.
1956	112 houses and flats.
1957	56 houses and flats.
1958	Nil.
1959	21 bungalows and flats.
	1,264

Houses etc. erected pre-war	1,596
" " sold pre-war	113
Houses owned at 31.12.59	2,673
Houses etc., erected post-war ..	1,264
" " sold post-war	76

Houses etc., erected by the Local Authority and still owned by them 2,673

The number of applicants on the waiting list as at the 31st December, 1959, was 545, as compared with 954 in December, 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General and applied to the crude birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

Live Births	368
Live Birth Rate	15.3
Stillbirths	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.04
Total Births	374
Infant Deaths	12
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	32.6
" " " " 1,000 legitimate births	34.09
" " " " 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	24.4
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	16.3
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births	32.01
Percentage of illegitimate live births	4.3
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	1
Maternal Mortality rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	2.6

DEATHS

	Male	Female	1959 Total	1958 Total
Total Deaths	129	142	271	303
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			11.2	12.6
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population			10.1	11.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			48	51
Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages)			90	112
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)			-	2

BIRTHS

The total number of births was 368, 179 male and 189 female. Of these, 16 were illegitimate, 6 male and 10 female. The table shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

BIRTH RATES

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
14.6	15.3	15.08	14.9	13.5	15.0	14.2	15.9	13.6	15.3

DEATHS

There was a decrease in the total number of deaths, 271 in 1959 as compared with 303 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 10.1 as compared with 11.2 for the previous year: the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.1.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 129 deaths, 121 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 73 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 142 deaths, 125 were 65 years and over, and 74 were 75 years and over.

Ages at Death in years	1959 Males	Females	Total
Under 1	5	7	12
1	-	-	-
5	-	1	1
15	-	-	-
25	1	-	1
45	2	9	11
65	26	26	52
Total under 70	34	43	77
70	22	25	47
75	22	15	37
80	24	11	35
85	17	24	41
90	8	20	28
95	2	4	6
Over 100	-	-	-
Total over 70	95	99	194
Totals	129	142	271

The following table shows the causes of death during 1959.

Causes of death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	8	4
" " Lung, Bronchus	7	3
" " Breast	-	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	11	9
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesion s of the nervous system	16	27
Coronary disease, angina	16	18
Hypertension with heart disease	2	6
Other heart disease	22	26
Other circulatory disease	4	11
Influenza	3	1
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis	7	-
Other disease of respiratory system	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide	2	1
	129	142

DEATH RATE

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
10.59	14.23	10.57	10.85	9.57	11.34	12.02	11.8	11.2	10.1

CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 48. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
38	46	48	51	41	49	40	59	51	48

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Yeovil Borough	2.1	1.58	2.06	2.02	2.14	1.7	2.04	1.6	2.04	2.1	1.9
County of Somerset	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06	2.045	1.89	2.054	2.018	2.12
England & Wales	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12	2.13

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 12 as compared with 9 for the year 1958. The rate per thousand of live births was 32.6 as compared with England and Wales - 22.6.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of Deaths	7	9	11	8	7	5	8	5	9	12
Rate per 1,000 Live births in Yeovil ..	20	25	30	22.5	21.7	13.8	23.3	13.0	27.6	32.6
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.1	22.5	22.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Age
Primary Pneumonia ..	6 months
Infection of Lungs ..	1 month
Neo natal Broncho Pneumonia	4 days
Atelectasis ..	20 minutes
Atelectasis & Prematurity	9 hours
Atelectasis & subdural haemorrhage ..	17 hours
Spina bifida ..	11 days
" " ..	7 months
Meningo myelocele ..	7 days
" " ..	1 month
Congenital Cardiac Disease	8 months
Intrabronchial obstruction	3 months

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1 month or under	Under 1 year
3	6	8	12

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one maternal death during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year, and also the figures for the previous year.

Disease	Cases notified 1959	1958
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-
Scarlet Fever	23	-
Measles	139	420
Pneumonia	3	7
Erysipelas	3	2
Whooping Cough	2	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	5
Dysentry	1	1
Paratyphoid	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	1
Typhoid	-	1
Total	175	445

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNIZATION

Diphtheria

The number of children under the age of 12 months immunized against Diphtheria during the year 1959 was 249, the total number immunized under the age of five years was 327, and the total number under the age

of 14 years was 361. So far as possible, all children should be immunized against Diphtheria before their first birthday, but the minimum percentage to aim at is 75%. The proportion of children immunized during the year 1959 under the age of 12 months as compared with the number of children born in 1958, was 76.5%. In addition, 370 children received "reinforcement" doses.

Whooping Cough

The number of children who completed a course of whooping cough vaccination was 324, of whom 237 were under the age of 12 months. In the majority of cases the whooping cough vaccine is given combined with the diphtheria inoculations. During the year no deaths from whooping cough were reported, and only 2 cases of whooping cough were notified. I think it reasonable to assume that the number of cases of whooping cough were more than those notified, but that due to the effect of the whooping cough inoculations, these cases were of such a mild nature as not to be recognizable by normal clinical examination.

VACCINATION

The number of primary smallpox vaccinations carried out was 259, of which 227 were for infants under the age of 1 year. In addition, 13 re-vaccinations were carried out. The number of births for the preceding year was 526, so that the number of infants vaccinated was approximately 39.6% as compared with 69.3% for the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The total number of persons inoculated against Poliomyelitis was 3,817. This figure included 1,637 young persons (1933-1942), 1,933 children (1943-1959), 235 expectant mothers, 12 doctors, ambulance staff and their families. In addition, 4,374 people received a third reinforcement dose.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year was 12, non-pulmonary 4. There were no deaths recorded due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and one death due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	12	12	17	24	28	26	18	24	31
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	4	2	4	4	4	4	7	3	3
No. of deaths Pulmonary	-	2	-	2	2	5	4	9	12
No. of deaths Non-Pulmonary ...	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ...	0.01	0.08	-	0.08	0.08	0.20	0.17	0.38	0.51

The Death Rate of all forms of Tuberculosis for England and Wales was 0.08 as compared with Yeovil 0.01.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	1	3	-	-	-	1

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Yeovil in September, 1959 - examinations being carried out at Westland Aircraft Company, Unity Hall and Messrs. C. W. Pittards and Company. Details of examinations carried out in previous years are set out below.

No. of Examinations Carried Out		No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed	
		Active	Inactive
1948	4,260	9	32
1949	2,298	13	31
1950	2,316	4	41
1951	3,015	8	34
1952	4,191	9	37
1953	4,460	12	22
1954	4,561	6	32
1955	4,109	1	24
1956	3,490	2	75
*1957	7,520	3	4
1958	Nil.	-	-
1959	4,702	3	22

* This figure includes examinations carried out in the Yeovil Rural District.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Ante-natal cases ..	59
Number of Post-natal cases ..	41
Number of children under 5 years	154

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Infants:-

Primary visits	355
Subsequent visits.....	3,174
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	5,122

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947, and was, I think, the first local authority clinic in Somerset. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 5,496 individual pregnant women have been examined, 696 examinations being carried out in 1959.

The area from which the patients are drawn, are, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the private practitioner or midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the patient's blood group, and whether she is Rh. Positive or Rh. Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test, is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the midwife or Matron of the maternity home, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.

A record of all blood tests is also kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rh. Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out 6 to 8 weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton, so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures and is a source of considerable gratification.

INFANT WELFARE

Preston Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	365
Total number of children attending for the first time ..	206
Total number of attendances made	1,472

Larkhill Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	80
Total number of children attending for the first time ..	31
Total number of attendances made	381

Southville Clinic

Total number of children attending	168
Total number of children attending for the first time ..	104
Total number of attendances made	733

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following table indicates the scope of its activities.

No. of cases who received help in 1959

Type of Case	Yeovil Borough
Maternity	38
Old Age and Infirmity	163
Tuberculosis	7
Chronic Illness	27
Emergency Illness	17
Families of Motherless children ...	-
Total ...	252

A number of the old age and chronic sick cases have received help for two or three years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service provides for remedial and preventive treatment, and consists of:-

(a) Routine and Special medical inspections.
(b) Minor Ailments treatment.
(c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
(d) Dental inspection and treatment.
(e) A much expanded scheme, in co-operation with the Hospital Services, for the treatment of defects of vision, and of ear, nose and throat.
(f) Routine colour vision testing of children.
(g) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity.
(h) Speech Therapy.
(i) Ultra Violet Light clinics for debilitated children.
(j) Routine immunization of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of reinforcement inoculations of children already immunized, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are immunized.
(k) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for a special session at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths for the rehabilitation of certain types of handicapped children. A large proportion of these pupils are those who have had Anterior Poliomyelitis with a residual physical defect. The value of this scheme is now well established and much credit is due to the work carried out by the local detachment of the British Red Cross.

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The number of children initially enrolled was 40, the number on the roll in December, 1959, was 40. The total number of attendances in the year was 369, and since the inception of the scheme 118 children have been or are being treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children

attending regularly, as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of Asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.

The importance of Asthma as a disease is frequently overlooked; about 3,000 deaths a year are ascribed to Asthma in England and Wales. In terms of capacity, it is stated that Asthma accounts for 206 days out of every 10,000 of incapacity for all causes. By comparison, the figure for tuberculosis is 108, and for gastric and duodenal ulcer together, 224. It will be appreciated, therefore, that any measure to help the asthmatic child is of importance, and it is recognized that the treatment of Asthma in childhood is to a considerable extent truly preventive medicine. The main credit for the success of the Clinic is due to the Health Visitors.

In the final paragraph of his Report for the years 1952 and 1953, Sir John Charles, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, states; "Change is a characteristic of all living things and if there is a vitality in the school health service, it will adapt itself to changing circumstances." It is hoped that the foregoing remarks regarding the school health service in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area are evidence that the service is endeavouring to cope with the present day problems.

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959

TO:
The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee:-

I present herewith my Report for the year 1959, in which unfit housing continued to receive attention. A summary of the years work is given below:-

(1) Total number of unfit houses dealt with	71
(2) Number included in 6 Clearance Areas	32
(3) Houses included in "grey land" in connection with Clearance Areas	10
(4) Number of unfit houses demolished during the year	20

A. CLEARANCE AREAS:

Houses demolished:	Unfit Houses:
i. in pink areas	5
ii. in pink hatched yellow areas	nil
iii. in grey areas	nil

B. UNFIT INDIVIDUAL HOUSES:

i. demolished formally or informally	15
ii. Closing Orders made	8
iii. closure procedure and undertakings accepted	8
iv. closure of part building	1

NOTE: During the five years ended December 1959, a total of 267 houses were dealt with as unfit under the Housing Acts. The major portion of unfit houses in the Borough have now been dealt with.

COMPLAINTS:

Included below is a list of the various complaints received by the Department during the year:-

General housing defects	53
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.	26
Smoke, dust and effluvia	17
Rats and mice	44
re: Unfit food and food premises	10
Keeping of animals and poultry	3
Factories and other premises	5
Insects	41
Pig Bins	3
Overcrowding	1
Nuisances from water courses	9
Miscellaneous	6

HOUSING INSPECTIONS:

Houses and other premises inspected:-

(a) under the Public Health Act	63
(b) under the Housing Act	207

Reinspections:

(a) under the Public Health Act	59
(b) under the Housing Act	169

Defective houses rendered fit:-

(1) Informally under (a)	3
(2) Formally under (a) by owners	1
(3) Formally under (b)	4

OVERCROWDING

No cases of avercrowding were recorded during the year.

RENT ACT 1957.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	5
Undertakings submitted and accepted	1
Certificates of Disrepair granted	4
Certificates cancelled	5

OTHER INSPECTIONS:

Complaints	84
Drainage	65
Verminous premises	4
Offensive trades	2
Movable dwellings	18
re: Rodents:-	
(a) by the Public Health Department	5
(b) by the Rodent Operator	615
Smoke nuisances	20
Smoke observations	6
Interviewing owners, builders, etc	
Offensive trades	2
Inspections re Certificates of Disrepair	5
Visits re (a) Improvement Grants	18
(b) Small Dwelling Acquisition Acts loans	47

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

General Defects:	
Roofs renewed or repaired	4
Chimneys rebuilt or repaired	5
Walls repaired	6
Walls rendered	45
Walls decorated	12
Windows renewed	11
Windows repaired	9
Doors renewed or repaired	3
Ceilings renewed	8
Ceilings repaired	5
Ceilings whitened	4
Floors renewed	9
Floors repaired	4
Food cupboards provided	4
Ventilation improved	6
Dampness remedied	11
Yards paved	5
Sculleries provided	1
Food Premises:	
Hot water supplied	4
Clothes lockers provided	2
Wash-hand basins provided	4
Drainage:	
Drainage tested	15
Drainage Extended	7
Drainage relaid	14
Drainage repaired	4
Choked drains cleared	14
W.C.'s built	6
Sinks provided	4
Gulleys provided	7
New W.C. Pans provided	5
Baths fixed	4
Inspection chambers built	7
C.I. Covers provided	7
S.V.P's fixed	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following disinfections were carried out:-

Houses disinfected	14
Rooms sprayed or fumigated	79
" " " " for tuberculosis .	19
" " " " for cancer	12
" " " " for vermin (disinfestation)..	10
Library Books	59
Gloving fumigated	6
Clothes	28
Miscellaneous	16

INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES.

Slaughterhouses (re meat inspection)	1220
Butcher's Shops	21
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	21
Dairies	1
Icecream premises	18
Re: Applications for Registration	6
Fish Shops	9
Provision dealers	40
Other premises	36
Public Houses	2
Suspected food poisoning	1

FOOD INSPECTION.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

The premises in Queen Street still continue to serve for the Borough and parts of the rural area. Some killing is done for markets outside the area. In order to maintain 100% inspection, a considerable amount has to be inspected at weekends. The question of the continuance of these premises as a Slaughterhouse, is at present under consideration.

Number of animals killed during the past 5 yrs.

YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES	TOTAL
1955	2270	3598	13761	1318	20,947
1956	2176	2896	12283	2715	20,070
1957	2047	3951	9038	1774	16,810
1958	2205	n3599	11050	1387	18,241
1959	1686	3850	7005	114	12,655

	Cattle excldg. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1614	72	114	3850	7005
Number inspected	1614	72	114	3850	7005
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:-					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	3	6	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	209	6	-	39	173
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	12.94	8.33	2.63	1.16	2.69
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcases condemned	..	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	35
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.124	-	-	-	.5
Cysticercosis:-					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to refrigeration treatment	14	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	28	-	-	-	307
(b) Cysticercosis	292	12	-	-	-
(c) Other	1265	30	211	280	1028
Total (in lbs) condemned	1585	42	211	280	1335

Whilst the figure show a considerable drop in the amount affected with T.B., there has been some increase in the incident of cysticercosis.

OFFAL CONDEMNED:	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Heads and Tongues	4	3	1	32
Plucks	-	3	4	59
Lungs and Hearts	4	-	-	40
Lungs	14	1	68	124
Skirts	1	-	-	-
Kidneys	2	-	-	26
Livers	122	2	57	83
Part Livers	133	-	-	2
Stomachs	3	-	-	-
Milts	4	1	-	..
Guts	13	1	-	17
Mesenteries	-	-	-	6

Note: The large number of whole or part livers condemned is due chiefly to parasitic infection.

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED

Jam	16	tins
Meat	1092	"
Milk	224	"
Fruit and Vegetables	752	"
Fish	805	"
Hams	39	"
Soup	93	"
TOTAL	3021	"

Other Food Condemned:-

Wet Fish	2 cwt. 1 st.
Chickens	11

FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

(a)	Number of registered distributors	12
(b)	Number of registered Dairy Premises (other than dairy farms)	16
(c)	Number of Licensed Dealers of designated milk	13
(d)	Number of supplementary licenses issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the area	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS AND PREMISES:-

for the sale and storage of icecream	66
for the preparation of preserved food	nil

ICECREAM:

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year:-

(a) manufacture, sale and storage	1
(b) sale and storage only	96

SAMPLES TAKEN.

DESIGNATED MILKS: (for keeping quality only).

	By Public Health Inspectors' Dept.	By Somerset County Council.
Number taken	1	201
Number passed	1	201

ICECREAM: Number taken:	Placed in provisional grades 1.	2.	3.	4.
45	33	9	2	1

A good grade was maintained throughout the year.

SWIMMING BATHS WATER:

Samples are not setn off, but readings for residual chlorine were taken and proved satisfactory.

WATER:

	Bacteriological.		Chemical.	
	Number taken.	Satisfactory.	Number taken.	Satisfactory
Main supplies (to cover all sources).	32	32	-	-
Source supplies (supplying mains)	6	6	6	6

Note: Tests are now made for residual chloride in each sample taken. All water supplies are chlorinated before passing into the main.

VERMIN INFESTATION.
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

1. Sewerage System:

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was again systematically tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out. The infestations found have proved to be of a minor character.

Areas test baited	11
Points baited	232
Negative results (presumed clear)	192
Total number of visits made	608

2. Private premises (including business premises):

Number of premises visited	675
Number treated for some degree of infestation	225
Number with no infestation	465
Number of points baited	3125
Number of premises cleared	210

3. Corporation Premises:

Inspections and treatment are carried out at the Corporation Sewage Works and refuse tip regularly. The work is done as routine measure in order to keep any infestation under control. During the year approximately 120 visits were made and more than 1,000 points baited.

Approximately 95 visits were made in connection with 4 contracts at business and factory premises.

STATUTORY ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Act and Section	Statutory notice served.	Court Action.	Abated.	In hand.
Public Health Act:-				
Section 93	3	-	3	-
Section 24	Action under	-	2	-

I again record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support throughout the year, also the Members of the Staff of my Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.G.H. RICE.